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Articles in Today's Clips Tuesday, January 29, 2008

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<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
*Child Abuse/Neglect/Protection	2-15
Adult Day Services	16-17
Domestic Violence	18-21
Health Care	22-23
Energy Assistance	24-25
Homelessness	26

*Important story at this spot

Foster mom convicted in Canton girl's death

Canton woman could get life in prison

January 29, 2008

BY CECIL ANGEL

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

A member of the Wayne County Circuit Court jury that convicted a Canton woman Monday of murdering her 2-year-old foster daughter said afterward that one explanation the defendant gave for the child's death was "hard to believe."

Carol Ann Poole, 42, was found guilty of second-degree murder, involuntary manslaughter and first-degree child abuse in the Sept. 22, 2006, death of Allison Newman. Poole was found not guilty of first-degree murder, but still faces the possibility of life in prison when she is sentenced Feb. 25 by Judge Ulysses W. Boykin.

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The verdict came about a half an hour after the jury began the second day of deliberations Monday. The trial started Jan. 7.

"This jury did what we said they probably would do -- find a compromise," said Jerry Dorsey IV, a Wayne County assistant prosecutor.

Only one juror, 23-year-old Jaclyn Wrybkowski of Canton, agreed afterward to speak with news media. She said the reaching a decision was "very hard."

"No one can tell us what happened. No one else was in the house," she said.

Investigators said Poole had given different explanations for Allison's death, including that the child slipped from her arms as she swung her around while playing a game she called whirly bird on a second-floor landing and landed 12 feet below.

"The facts of the whirly bird story were hard to believe," Wrybkowski said.

Poole's husband, Alan Poole, left the courthouse without talking to reporters. His wife's attorneys, Mark Satawa and Joseph Niskar, appeared stunned by the verdict.

"It's a big shock," Satawa said.

Satawa described Carol Ann Poole as devastated. "She's struggling to find a reason to go on, a reason to keep fighting, a reason to live," he said.

Niskar said they are going to ask the judge to throw out the second-degree murder conviction.

Allison's father, Kenneth M. Newman, and her paternal grandparents, Kenneth E. Newman, 54, and Deborah Newman, 51, of Westland, wept after the verdict.

"I prayed every day for this jury to find her guilty," her father, who is deaf, said through an interpreter.

The manslaughter and child abuse charges each carry a penalty of up to 15 years in prison.

Contact **CECIL ANGEL** at 313-223-4531 or angel@freepress.com.

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THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

Ex- foster mother guilty

Canton woman could get up to life in prison for death of 2-year-old girl

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

BY SUSAN L. OPPAT

The Ann Arbor News

A former foster mother from Canton Township was convicted Monday of second-degree murder, manslaughter and first-degree child abuse in the September 2006 death of her 2-year-old foster daughter.

Carol Ann Poole, 41, faces up to life in prison on the murder charge at her Feb. 25 sentencing in Wayne County Circuit Court. Jerry Dorsey IV, head of the child and family abuse section of the prosecutor's office, said he will waive sentencing on the conflicting manslaughter conviction.

Dorsey said the child abuse conviction should also have resulted in a felony murder conviction, because the death occurred during the commission of a felony.

But he said the jury was apparently reluctant to send her to prison for life without parole, the mandatory sentence for that charge. Jurors refused to talk to either prosecutors or defense attorneys after the finding, he said.

Dorsey said prosecutors only included the involuntary manslaughter charge as an alternative to complete acquittal. Because the manslaughter and murder charges conflict, he said, he must choose the charge on which he wants her sentenced - the second-degree murder.

Poole changed her story to police several times after she called 911 in 2006, finally telling them she was swinging the child up over her head and down between her legs, and the toddler, Allison Newman, flew out of her hands and off a second-story balcony. She told police she waited about four hours before she called for help.

By the time the toddler arrived at a hospital, according to testimony, she had virtually no brain activity, and her temperature had dropped significantly.

Poole remains in the Wayne County Jail without bond.

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Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Foster mom guilty of murder

Canton Twp. woman faces life; juror says claim girl, 2, died from twirling game was not believed.

Doug Guthrie / The Detroit News

DETROIT -- Kenneth Newman wept when his daughter's killer was convicted. Then, he held a photo of him holding his daughter, Allison, in his arms for the last time.

"This is the last time I saw my daughter," the deaf man said Monday through a sign language interpreter. "I wish she could be back in our lives again."

He was in the Wayne County Circuit courtroom Monday to watch a jury return a second-degree murder conviction against Carol Poole, 42, of Canton Township in the Sept. 22, 2006, death of Allison Newman.

Poole, who was also convicted of first-degree child abuse and involuntary manslaughter, faces life in prison during sentencing Feb. 25.

The conviction caps a drama that began when the 2-year-old was taken from her deaf parents because they had drug problems. The Pooles seemed like an ideal foster family. Both are professionals. They live in a 2,700-square-foot house. They said they adored Allison and wanted to adopt her.

"I prayed every day for this, to find her guilty," said Newman, 30, of Westland, who was in prison for fighting with police and fleeing in a stolen car when his daughter died. He was paroled in December.

"She murdered my daughter."

The jury of 10 women and two men deliberated all day Thursday, then half an hour Monday. One said they didn't believe Poole's story; that the girl

slipped from her grasp while playing a twirling game and fell over the railing of a second-story balcony inside her home.

"We didn't believe the whirlybird story," said juror Jaclyn Wrybkowski, 23, also of Canton Township. She traveled with fellow jurors during the trial to see the home and concluded space at the top of Poole's stairway was too small to engage in a spinning game with a rambunctious toddler.

"No one will ever know what happened, but we didn't believe it," Wrybkowski said.

Poole's lawyers will appeal the conviction because they claim the jury was confused by Judge Ulysses Boykin's instructions to include the lesser charge of second-degree murder as an option to felony murder.

Her conviction for involuntary manslaughter, a 15-year-felony, was based on Poole failing to get immediate help for the girl after the injury. Poole claimed she put the girl to bed because she was conscious and only had a bump on her head from the 12-foot-fall to a hardwood floor.

She initially told officers three other versions of how the child was injured.

"All along I said we understood that Carol made a mistake that might rise to involuntary manslaughter, but never did I believe that the jury would believe Carol meant to harm Allison," defense lawyer Mark Satawa said.

On the day the girl died, a friend testified that Poole told her that her life was over. Others said she turned suicidal, begging a doctor to give her an overdose and asking a police officer to shoot her.

"She is devastated," Satawa said after the verdict. "She is struggling to find a reason to go on, a reason to keep fighting, even a reason to live."

Although the prosecution claimed Poole may have caused the fatal injuries by bashing her head against a solid object, her lawyers still contend there wasn't any testimony or evidence that proved it. Autopsy findings and medical experts indicated the girl had prior injuries from other sources, but none said they could conclusively determine it was from abuse.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Jerry Dorsey IV told jurors that Poole is a manipulator who tried to sway the jury by frequently sobbing. He said Poole always had an explanation for the prior injuries; that the girl thrashed in bed and fell a lot. But Dorsey explained it was odd the child hadn't been accident prone prior to the final two months of her life.

"This jury did what we said they would probably do from the beginning, they compromised," Dorsey told members of Allison's family. "The jury did the best they could under the circumstances. It's a good verdict."

Three Michigan children in foster or adoptive settings have died in the hands of caregivers since 2005. The other cases involving the deaths of Ricky Holland in Williamston and Isaac Lethbridge in Detroit resulted in prison terms for foster and adoptive parents and prompted reforms within the state Department of Human Services.

You can reach Doug Guthrie at (734) 462-2674 or dguthrie@detnews.com.

Detroit Free Press

Wayne County news briefs

January 29, 2008

LINCOLN PARK: Appeal planned in baby death case

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office announced Monday that it will appeal a judge's decision to dismiss the case of a Lincoln Park man who allegedly sexually abused and killed his 8-day-old daughter Nov. 23. On Friday, 25th District Judge David Bajorek shelved the child abuse and felony murder charges against Christopher Richardson at his preliminary examination because there wasn't enough evidence.

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Prosecutor to appeal ruling in baby's death

Father faced life in prison, but judge dismissed charges for lack of evidence.

Kim Kozlowski / The Detroit News

DETROIT -- A Lincoln Park man accused of murdering his 8-day-old daughter may still stand trial, following Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy's decision Monday to appeal a judge's ruling to drop charges against him.

Following a preliminary hearing, 25th District Judge David A. Bajorek on Friday cited a lack of evidence when he dismissed charges of felony murder, first-degree criminal sexual conduct and first-degree child abuse against Christopher Ryan Richardson.

Richardson, 21, faced life in jail when he was charged in November after the death of his 8-day-old daughter, Nevaeh Ann Richardson. She died Nov. 24 following an assault that led to a massive infection, sepsis and a malfunction of her blood clotting system. A coroner ruled the death a homicide.

A two-day hearing that concluded Friday included testimony from the infant's mother, Cynthia Goscicki, who said Richardson physically abused her while she was pregnant.

The hearing also included discussions of a taped six-hour interrogation of Richardson, where he said he might have accidentally slipped his finger inside the baby while he was cleaning her.

But Bajorek said the evidence presented was circumstantial.

"We disagree with the judge's dismissal and we are going to appeal," said Jerry Dorsey IV, deputy chief for Child and Family Abuse Bureau of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

The appeal will be held before a judge in 3rd Circuit Court, but Dorsey said it could take between three to six months before a verdict is reached.

In the meantime, Richardson is being held in Wayne County Jail. He is being held following his guilty plea to a domestic violence misdemeanor for assaulting Goscicki on the night their daughter was rushed to the hospital. Because it is a second offense, he faces up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine at his Feb. 5 sentencing.

Richardson's attorney, Susan Reed, said Bajorek's decision was fair.

"He did a very thorough job," Reed said.

"He looked and weighed (the evidence). He listened for six hours to that tape to see if it supported what the police said and he found it didn't."

His mother, Adie Green, added that she was upset the legal proceedings will continue.

"He didn't do it," Green said.

You can reach Kim Kozlowski at (313) 222-2024 or kkozlowski@detnews.com.



THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

Man pleads no contest in abduction

8-year-old girl from South Lyon was assaulted last May

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

From Ann Arbor News staff reports

An Ohio man has pleaded no contest to eight felony charges in Oakland County accusing him of abducting a sleeping 8-year-old girl from her South Lyon home and sexually assaulting her last May.

South Lyon police said Timothy Jeffrey, of Cleveland, pleaded no contest to kidnap and sexual assault charges, and resisting and obstructing police. He also pleaded no contest to being a habitual offender, third offense.

He faces up to life in prison at his sentencing on Feb. 12. A no-contest plea is not an admission of guilt, but is treated like a conviction. His sentence may be enhanced because of the habitual offender conviction. Three charges were dismissed in exchange for the pleas.

The girl testified at a preliminary hearing last June that she fell asleep on the couch in her mother's South Lyon apartment and awoke to find Jeffrey - whom she identified in court - carrying her away. The girl said she asked the man who he was and where they were going.

"He said, 'We're going to make love,'" she said.

Police said Jeffrey, who told them he was in the Detroit area looking for work, apparently chose his victim at random. He was wanted on an outstanding warrant in Ohio on a burglary charge.

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MORNING SUN

Witness in CSC case was stunned

By SUSAN FIELD
Clare Managing Editor

An Isabella County woman testified Monday that she was stunned when she found a friend molesting a then 7-year-old girl in her garage last June.

Tammy Sian, the former guardian of the girl, said she thought of Alan Bruce Corbin as trusted family friend whom she had no reason not to trust.

Sian's testimony came during the first day of Corbin's trial in Judge Mark Duthie's Mt. Pleasant courtroom.

Corbin, 46, a former instructor at Central Michigan University and physician's assistant, is charged in Isabella County with five counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and five counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct.

Sian, who was the girl's guardian until custody was awarded to the girl's biological mother in Georgia, said she took the girl to Central Michigan Community Hospital the day after she was molested and that hospital personnel notified police.

When asked by Senior Assistant Prosecutor Risa Scully about what Sian thought of Corbin, who had done construction work at her home, she said he was her best friend.

"I thought the world of him," she said. "He was on a high pedestal."

When questioned by defense attorney Andrew Marks about the girl's failure to discuss previous alleged incidents, Sian said the girl, who was abducted by her biological father at age 2, has had difficulties since then.

"She was traumatized," Sian said. "The kid's been through an awful lot."

Sian's testimony came Monday afternoon, after opening statements to the five-woman, nine-man jury.

Scully painted a picture of a man who sexually assaulted several young girls and a boy over a 25-year time span, while Marks spoke of a suicidal Corbin who has admitted to his demons, resigned from his job at CMU and watched his career slip away.

"His career was over," Marks said. "He recognized that."

"His teaching career was over. He recognized that."

Rather than police tracking him down and arresting him, Marks said Corbin turned himself in at the Isabella County Sheriff's Department with the intent

of killing himself in jail.

Marks also told jurors that first-degree and second-degree criminal sexual conduct charges were inappropriate because there was no alleged penetration.

Scully, however, told jurors that Corbin has been a predator of several children, including a now-grown woman who is expected to testify that Corbin molested her when she was younger.

"We're going to hear from several past victims," Scully said, adding that jurors will also see a videotaped statement in which Corbin admitted to Isabella County Sheriff's Detective Sgt. Dan Denslow that he inappropriately touched several girls and a boy but that the children directed his hands to their genital areas.

Corbin's trial is scheduled through Thursday.

Corbin is also charged with one count of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and one count of second-degree criminal sexual conduct in Clare County.

He also faces three counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct in Mecosta County, according to court records.

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Autistic girl unable to answer court questions

January 29, 2008

BY L.L. BRASIER and JOHN WISELY

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITERS

A 14-year-old autistic girl was unable to answer questions in court Monday using the same controversial communication method prosecutors used to charge her father with rape, according to a defense attorney who witnessed the demonstration.

Jerome Sabbota, who represents the girl's father, said the teen was unable to answer questions such as her brother's name and the color of the sweater she was wearing.

Advertisement

"It was total nonsense," Sabbota said. "It proves what we've been saying all along that it's not valid."

Prosecutors say the girl, who cannot speak, used facilitated communication to accuse her father of repeatedly raping her and her mother of allowing it to go on. Using the communication method, an autistic person types answers to questions on a keyboard with the assistance of a teaching aide. Bloomfield Hills District Judge Marc Barron closed his courtroom to the public and reporters for the demonstration. Reporters and others were able to watch but not hear the proceedings on closed-circuit TV cameras. The girl sat at a table in the courtroom.

During the demonstration the girl's teaching aide was removed briefly from the courtroom while the girl was asked a question. The aide returned to help her answer it, but the girl could not answer, Sabbota said. He estimated 10 or 11 questions were asked and she couldn't answer them.

Barron also heard testimony on the validity of the method. He is expected to issue a ruling soon.

School records show that the child was tested at age 9 -- before she began facilitated communication at the encouragement of her parents -- and that she had the intellectual development of a 3-year-old. Her IQ level was judged to be in the moderate to severely retarded range by a defense expert.

The girl spends four of her six hours of school each day in classes with other students, accompanied by her facilitator, who guides her hands on the keyboard for all her work.

Howard Shane, an associate professor at Harvard Medical School and the director of the Center for Communication Disorders at Children's Hospital in Boston, said the communication method was worthless.

"It is a complete waste of time," said Shane, who added that the child likely remains at the developmental age of 3 and likely is mentally retarded.

Shane wrote a book debunking facilitated communication as a legitimate method and came to Michigan to testify on behalf of the girl's parents.

The girl's father, a house painter, is charged with criminal sexual conduct in the first degree. The mother faces neglect charges and is accused of witness intimidation. The father remains in the Oakland County Jail. The mother, a research attorney in Oakland County, is free but wears an electronic tether.

The Free Press is not naming them to protect the identity of the child.

Contact **L.L. BRASIER** at 248-858-2262 or brasier@freepress.com.

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01/28/2008

Adult day services provides peace of mind

The Huron Daily Tribune

When caring for a loved one afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia or physical limitations, a caregiver's greatest concern is ensuring a safe environment while still making their loved one feel important, capable and loved. It's a 24 hour a day job. But what do you do as a caregiver when you simply can't be there? We all need to run errands, go to work, make appointments, or take some valuable rejuvenation time for ourselves. In the Thumb Area, we are fortunate to have Adult Day Services available to fill that gap. Adult Day Services provides a safe, caring place for older adults with dementia, Alzheimer's or physical limitations to go while their caregivers take that much needed time off. It's an opportunity for older adults to interact with others and enjoy activities such as physical exercise, music therapy, memory exercises, and crafts. Participants receive quality care from staff that is trained to monitor health and recognize the strengths, needs and interests of those dealing with dementia and other limitations.

Adult Day Services (ADS) is operated by Human Development Commission in Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola Counties. In Huron County, it operates part of the week in Port Austin and part in Bad Axe. The only criterion to utilize the program is that participants must be senior citizens being cared for by caregivers and require some assistance to continue living in their home or the home of a relative.

Rose Respondek, a Program Assistant with ADS, noted that utilizing adult day services is much more cost effective than having in-home care. "For some, in-home care can be cost prohibitive," states Respondek. "This is an affordable option to provide excellent care for your loved one." He added that the center currently has financial assistance available for those who qualify to help pay for the cost of care. "We've secured some grant money to assist clients who may need help in paying for adult day services. There are a few stipulations, so anyone interested should contact us." The funding is limited so those who are interested in financial support should contact staff

as soon as possible.

According to Respondek, one of the biggest advantages of the ADS program outside of providing respite for caregivers, is the focus on helping clients retain memory skills. "We do activities and exercises daily to increase memory retention, and we do them as a group," says Respondek. "This helps slow the further development of dementia and also gives our clients the chance to socialize with others experiencing the same challenges as they are."

For more information on the Adult Day Services program, call (989) 672-2273. The Adult Day Services program is partially funded by Region 7 Area on Aging.



Man charged with stabbing ex-girlfriend in the throat

By John Michalak
Journal Register News Service

MADISON HEIGHTS -- A Madison Heights woman pleaded for her life after police said her ex-boyfriend stabbed her in the throat and led officers on a 20 minute foot chase before they captured him by twice stunning him with an electric Taser.

The suspect, Vandiver Howard, 40, of Detroit, was arraigned Monday for attempted murder, said Madison Heights Detective Lt. Corey Haines.

"She was lucky," said Haines of the unidentified 34-year-old victim. "She got quick medical attention and she was fortunate he left without doing anything further. She had a pretty good gash in the throat and was bleeding a lot."

Fire department paramedics treated the victim at the scene and transported her to William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak. She was in stable condition and was expected to be released from the hospital on Monday, Haines said.

He added Howard has prior convictions for assault with a dangerous weapon and carrying a concealed weapon. The assault occurred about 9:10 a.m. Saturday at the victim's apartment complex in the area of 41460 John R. The injured victim met responding police and gave officers a description of the attacker.

The victim and Howard had a previous dating relationship, Haines reported.

"An argument occurred when the victim refused to let the suspect stay at her apartment while she went to work," Haines said. "The suspect pushed her to the floor and she attempted to call 9-1-1. The suspect took the phone away. He continued pushing her until she was against a wall in the kitchen where he picked up a knife and stabbed her in the throat. After that he demanded her money while she pleaded for him not to kill her," Haines added.

The woman gave the attacker what money she had before he fled the apartment, Haines said. The victim contacted a neighbor who called 9-1-1. No one else was at the apartment, he added.

Police and the paramedics arrived about the same time. Police broadcast a description of the attacker while paramedics took the victim to the hospital.

An officer spotted the suspect running along 13 Mile near Barrington by the Madison Heights City Hall, Haines said.

"The officers did a great job," Haines said. "They were able to keep the suspect in view. They gave several commands for him to stop which he disobeyed. One officer got close enough to Taser him. He refused more commands to put his hands behind his back and was a Tasered a second time. He was subsequently taken into custody without further incident."

Haines described the foot chase as lengthy.

"It went from north of 13 Mile, zig-zagging to near I-75," Haines said. "It went south to near Ajax Drive (nearly midway between 12 Mile and 13 Mile). He was arrested on Girard."

Howard was arraigned before Madison Heights Magistrate Kimberly Wilson, who set a \$1.2 million cash bond pending his preliminary examination Feb. 6 in the city's 43rd District Court.

Besides attempted murder, Howard also is charged with armed robbery, both punishable by up to life in prison; plus interfering with electronic communications and assaulting a police officer, both two year felonies.

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Cops say man forced SUV into river

Witnesses say he grabbed wheel during spat

By Gordon Wilczynski
Macomb Daily Staff Writer

A 31-year-old Bloomfield Township man has been charged with trying to kill his fiancée after he allegedly grabbed the steering wheel while she was driving and forced their sport utility vehicle into 10 feet of water in the frigid Clinton River near Van Dyke and Utica Road, police said Monday.

Utica Detective Sgt. David Faber said both people could have been killed if the SUV had struck a tree while rumbling through a park area. He added that they could have drowned when their vehicle plunged into the river, which runs through the cities of Utica and Sterling Heights about a half-mile south of M-59.

The incident occurred early Sunday morning after Charles Cook and his fiancée left Cactus Jack's bar, a popular lounge and restaurant in downtown Utica. Witnesses said the couple was arguing and the disagreement continued as the woman drove south on Van Dyke.

Faber said Charles Cook grabbed the steering wheel, forcing the vehicle off the road and through the ice and into the river. Both Cook and his fiancée were rescued from the vehicle by Sterling Heights and Utica police and fire department and an employee of Ruehle's Towing Service in Mount Clemens.

Cook pleaded not guilty on Monday to assault with the intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, and operating a vehicle for the third time under the influence of alcohol. Bond was set at \$45,000 by 41-D District Magistrate Michael Osaer.

The car hit the river after it smashed through a six-foot embankment at Heritage Park, according to Utica Detective Sgt. David Faber. The SUV traveled over 50 feet before it crashed into the river and through the ice on the west side of Van Dyke in Utica.

The vehicle, according to Faber, then floated to the surface and traveled downstream until it passed under the Van Dyke Bridge onto the Sterling Heights side. Cook and his girlfriend were cold and dazed but managed to get out of the vehicle and stand on the roof, police said.

"Mr. Cook and his girlfriend were arguing when they walked out of a bar in downtown Utica and obviously continued the argument while they were driving south on Van Dyke," said Faber. "He was pretty intoxicated and considered the driver of the vehicle as soon as he grabbed ahold of the steering wheel."

Faber said the car got hung up on ice downstream. He said the car could have floated much farther downstream.

Both Cook and his fiancée were taken to Troy Beaumont Hospital where they were treated for hypothermia and other bumps and bruises and released.

Vito Strolis, owner of Ruehle's Towing, said the submerged vehicle likely will be considered a complete loss by the insurance company. He said his employees had to put a hole in the front window on the driver's side so that they could attach a chain and pull the car out of the river.

Strolis said he would like to know the make of the SUV's battery.

He said the vehicle's lights were on during the entire ordeal.

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COUNTDOWN TO SMILE DAY

Dentists volunteer their skills So far, 543 metro Detroit kids signed up for free care day

January 29, 2008

BY CECIL ANGEL
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Cody Clark can't wait to go to the dentist on Friday.

"Every time you get done they give you a sucker or something or toothpaste or a toothbrush," said the 8-year-old, who attends the City Mission school in Detroit's Brightmoor neighborhood.

Cody is one of 50 children from that school and neighborhood who will travel Friday to the office of Dr. Maria Manzor, a Warren dentist. She is one of the scores of dentists in metro Detroit who will volunteer their services to children without dental insurance as part of the nationwide Give Kids A Smile Day on Friday.

Other dentists will offer free care on Saturday.

About 80 dentists will gather at the University of Detroit Mercy Dental School to provide care.

Dr. Sheila Semler, who is with the oral health program at the state Department of Community Health, said 15.1% of the state's children have no dental insurance.

"Kids tend to fall through the cracks if they're not covered by insurance," said Dr. Lloyd Lariscy, chairman of the Give Kids A Smile effort that covers Macomb, Monroe, Oakland and Wayne counties.

Last year, more than 170 children were treated to \$80,838 in free care, Lariscy said.

"Some of these children don't sleep at night because they have dental abscesses," he said.

To qualify for the free care, children must be 4 to 18 years old, cannot have dental insurance, and must live in Macomb, Monroe, Oakland or Wayne county.

Appointments for treatment will be accepted through Friday and may be made by calling the 211 help line operated by the United Way for Southeastern Michigan.

The agency began collecting names on Jan. 7 and helped to spread the word about the free care as families called the agency about other issues, said Susan Zanley, a United Way employee in charge of quality and training. The agency collected the names and forwarded them to the Detroit District Dental Society.

So far, 543 children in 261 families were signed up for appointments, Zanley said. "We're pretty excited," she said.

Cleanings, X-rays, fillings and other procedures will be part of Give Kids A Smile Day at Manzor's office, but so will professional clowns.

"Really it's a fun day for the kids," Manzor said. "It's my way of giving back to the community. These kids are so appreciative that someone cares about their teeth."

Lariscy agreed: "It's an incredibly gratifying experience. Professional dentistry has been good to all of us, so we feel it's important to give back."

According to the American Dental Association, the Give Kids A Smile program was established in February 2002 by the Greater St. Louis Dental Society and a group of dentists who set up a temporary, full-service clinic that treated nearly 400 children over two days.

Lariscy said the Goodfellows will pay for the children who register for services on Saturday, but are not able to be treated at that time.

During their visit to her office, Manzor said the children will learn about dental care and nutrition.

"It's fun. You get to do cool things," said Nakya Herriotte, 8, of Detroit.

"They give you a special surprise at the end."

Contact **CECIL ANGEL** at 313-223-4531 or angel@freepress.com.

THE DAILY Reporter

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Protest planned for tonight's State of the State speech

[Print Page](#)

By Roland Stoy-Staff writer

DETROIT — A group demanding Gov. Jennifer Granholm declare a moratorium on all foreclosures and utility cut-offs is planning to conduct a demonstration today at 6 p.m. at the state capitol.

Granholm's annual State of the State message is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

While the governor will speak on a number of matters, she is also expected to address the foreclosure situation.

In October, Granholm announced plans to assist homeowners facing foreclosure by offering new refinancing options through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and last week met with mortgage servicers to find solutions, according to a press release from her office, to hold down increases on adjustable rate mortgages and in some cases freeze the rate for up to five years.

Also discussed was notifying homeowners before the rates are scheduled to go up.

The Michigan Emergency Committee Against War and Injustice issued a press release saying protesters will demand that Granholm declare a state of emergency and a moratorium to stop all foreclosures and utility shut-offs.

They said a bus will be leaving Detroit at 4 p.m. today to head to the capitol.

The press release said the group demands emergency measures to protect the health and welfare of the poor and working people of Michigan "in the midst of the economic disaster that has hit our state. 72,000 homes have entered foreclosure in Metro Detroit alone in the last two years. The foreclosure crisis is devastating communities throughout Michigan."

They said at the demonstration, victims of foreclosures and utility shut-offs will describe the predatory lending policies of financial institutions "which coupled with the massive job loss in Michigan have created a Katrina-like disaster in Michigan."

They cite three separate Michigan statutes — MCL 10.31 et.seq., 10.85 et.seq. and 30.401 et.seq — mandating that the governor declare a state of emergency during periods of crisis, natural or 'man-made,' and provide special powers to meet the crisis.

The group noted that during the 1930s, the Mortgage Moratorium Act extended the redemption period, during which homeowners could not have their property taken from them after foreclosure, from six months to five years.

Demonstrators will also demand that Granholm use her emergency powers to immediately declare a Moratorium on Foreclosures and Utility-Shut-offs in Michigan.

Protesters are also demanding that the state capitol be open to the people during the State of the State address, which was done until recently in Michigan, and as other states currently do.

"Granholm and the Legislature's closing of the capitol shows their fear of and isolation from the working people of Michigan, and is a violation of at least the spirit of the Open Meetings

Act," said the press release.

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Former homeless woman speaks to high schoolers

Ryan Holland

The Enquirer

Rena Rinearson spoke Monday to seniors at St. Philip Catholic Central High School to kick off the school's fifth annual Homeless Walk with The Haven of Rest Ministries.

The event was the first in a series of St. Philip service projects to raise homeless awareness. It also is part of the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools' celebration of Catholic Schools Week, which started Sunday.

Rinearson, who owns Adam & Eve Salon and Spa in Pennfield Township, is a former resident of The Haven's Inasmuch House; a place she said was responsible for her meteoric rise from homelessness to entrepreneurship.

"I didn't start out as the typical, original idea some of you might have of a drugged-out homeless person," Rinearson told students.

After her husband fell 10 stories during a contracting job, she said, hospital bills and an addiction to pain medication caused the family to live in a van parked at various campsites around the area.

Rinearson said her husband abused her, and she lost custody of her son. Her parents arranged for her to be dropped off at Inasmuch House in a taxi with \$20 in her pocket.

The Haven, she said, provided her with psychological services, legal assistance, job placement and a housing transition.

"Knowing I was in a place where nobody would beat on me anymore and where I could get my son back, it was a down-on-your-knees, crying experience," Rinearson said.

Three years later, Rinearson has opened her own salon, which provides women at the Inasmuch House with free haircuts, manicures and pedicures.

"They know when they look in the mirror the next morning that they'll like what they see," she said.

The Haven's Life Recovery Program will take the same group of St. Philip seniors on a walk in the life of a homeless person on Feb. 8. Students will attend a Life Recovery Program graduation later that day.

For more information, call The Haven's Steve Parker at 965-1148, extension 17.
